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the personal culture of the individual; for this reason it is sometimes referred to as a scientific degree (as opposed to professional). It was destined at first exclusively for foreigners, who would not wish to conform to the requirements of the professional curricula. In March, 1918, however, it was opened to Italians as well."—Degrees for foreigners;—"At present no degree of higher grade than the regular laurea or the new doctorate is conferred in Italy; and from what precedes, it is obvious that the requirements for these degrees are less in amount than the requirements for the doctorate in Graduate Schools of good standing in America. It must be borne in mind, however, that for Americans the successful following of a course of university study in Italy implies residence abroad and mastery of the Italian language"—The language; Choosing a University;—"Concise descriptions of all the Universities and other higher institutions in Italy, including libraries and learned societies, with lists of the professors and other officials, will be found in the *Annuario degli Istituti Scientifici Italiani*, compiled by Professor Silvio Pivano for the Associazione Italiana per l'Intesa Intellettuale fra i Paesi Alleati ed Amici (Rome, 1918; price 10 lire)."—Special provisions 1919-1920.

Number Stories of Long Ago. By D. E. SMITH. Boston, Ginn, 1919. 12mo. 7 + 136 pp. + 8 plates in color. Price 48 cents.

Extract from "Preface number two for the grown-ups, and not worth reading"—

"... This book is intended for supplementary reading in the elementary school. It is written in nontechnical language, and the effort has been made to connect with the history enough of the human element to make it more interesting than any mere recital of facts. With it there is also joined something of the history of writing materials, this being connected naturally with the story of our numbers. Chapters I-VIII can easily be read aloud, and the Question Box at the end of each chapter can be used as a basis for conversation or for written work.

"The facts stated in the book are as nearly exact as the circumstances permit. It is not to be expected, however, that changes in the form of various numerals will be considered. Such changes are of no moment in a work of this nature and do not contradict the statement that the historical facts are presented with substantial accuracy.

"It is the author's hope that this little series of human incidents will create a new interest not merely in the study of arithmetic but in the story of the development of our civilization."

The solutions of the problems in chapters IX and X of *Number Stories* have been given by D. E. SMITH in a fourteen page pamphlet entitled: *Number Puzzles before the Log Fire*.

Essentials of Algebra and Geometry. By F. M. MORGAN. New York, Association Press, 1919. 12mo. 58 pp.

This is the second of the series, published under the direction of Professor J. W. Young for the National War Work Council of Young Men's Christian Associations, to which reference has been made already in the MONTHLY (March, 1919). It contains six lessons preparatory to the study of trigonometry. The requirement has been cut down to a minimum and it is intended that everything given shall be of importance. There are numerous "Exercises," "Oral review exercises" and "Review exercises."

NOTES.

The *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* for April 24, 1919, contains the report by a Faculty Committee (of which Professor G. D. BIRKHOFF is a member) on General Final Examinations for Degrees. Such examinations are not to be used in the Divisions of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences.

The twenty-page *List of Members, 1919*, of the Indian Mathematical Society contains 195 names. Of these one name is that of a "Patron," one of an "Honorary Member," and nine of "Life Members." Of the 185 "Ordinary Members" only one resides outside of India.